	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/677,958	SHOCHET ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LIN LIU	2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _08/25/2010_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _1-7, 24-28, 44-47, 59 and 61-64_.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date _09/24/2010_

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date _20100925_ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is response to Applicants' Amendment filed on 08/25/2010.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Stanley D. Ference III (33,879).

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended), A method comprising:

limiting communication between users in a multi-user communication

environment to a menu-driven system ~~of pre-prepared chat messages~~ until an

authenticated relationship is established between the users, wherein the menu-driven

system is limited to exchange of chat messages selected from a pre-prepared library of

chat messages;

receiving a request for a unique code by a first user the multi-user

communication environment;

generating the unique code by the multi-user communication environment;

providing the unique code generated by the multi-user communication

environment to [[a]] the first user in the multi-user communication environment;

responsive to transmission of the unique code from the first user to a second

user via a communication path outside of multi-user communication environment:

receiving the unique code from the second user at the multi-user communication

environment;

establishing the authenticated relationship between the first user and the second

user in response to receipt by the multi-user communication environment of the unique

code from the second user; and

enabling free form communication between the first user and the second user in

response to establishing the authenticated relationship between the first user and the

second user, wherein the free form communication is not restricted to the pre-prepared

library of chat messages, and the free form communication acts as private chat between

users having an authenticated relationship only.

~~Wherein:~~

~~the authenticated relationship comprises an association of the unique code with~~

~~the first user and the second user;~~

~~the authenticated relationship is established between the first user and the~~

~~second user in response to receipt by the multi-user communication environment of the~~

~~unique code from the second user; and~~

~~the unique code is not transmissible between the first user and the second user~~

~~via the multi-user communication environment.~~

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable media having

instructions for facilitating communication in real-time between users in a multi-user

communication environment, the instructions performing steps comprising:

limiting communication between users in a multi-user communication

environment to a menu-driven system ~~of pre-prepared chat messages~~ until an

authenticated relationship is established between the users, <u>wherein the menu-driven</u>

<u>system is limited to exchange of chat messages selected from a pre-prepared library of</u>

<u>chat messages;</u>

<u>receiving a request for a unique code by a first user at the multi-user</u>

<u>communication environment;</u>

<u>generating the unique code by the multi-user communication environment;</u>

providing the unique code generated by the multi-user communication

environment to [[a]] <u>the</u> first user in the multi-user communication environment;

<u>responsive to transmission of the unique code from the first user to a second</u>

<u>user via a communication path outside of multi-user communication environment:</u>

<u>receiving the unique code from the second user at the multi-user communication</u>

<u>environment;</u>

<u>establishing the authenticated relationship between the first user and the second</u>

<u>user in response to receipt by the multi-user communication environment of the unique</u>

<u>code from the second user;</u> and

enabling free form communication between the first user and the second user in

response to establishing the authenticated relationship between the first user and the

second user, <u>wherein the free form communication is not restricted to the menu-driven</u>

<u>system of the pre-prepared library of chat messages, and the free form communication</u>

<u>acts as private chat between users having an authenticated relationship only.</u>

~~wherein:~~

~~the authenticated relationship comprises an association of the unique code with~~

~~the first user and the second user;~~

~~the authenticated relationship is established between the first user and the~~

~~second user in response to receipt by the multi-user communication environment of the~~

~~unique code from the second user; and~~

~~the unique code is not transmissible between the first user and the second user~~

~~via the multi-user communication environment.~~

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) A method for initiating free form communication

between a plurality of users in a multi-user gaming environment via an exchange of

words selected from a menu of predetermined words determined by the gaming

environment, the method comprising:

establishing predetermined word communication via an exchange of words

selected from the menu between a first user and at least one second user in the multi-

user gaming environment, <u>wherein the menu comprises a pre-prepared library of words;</u>

<u>receiving a request for a unique code by the first user from the multi-user gaming</u>

<u>environment;</u>

<u>generating the unique code by the multi-user gaming environment;</u>

providing [[a]] the unique code generated by the multi-user gaming environment

to the first user in the multi-user gaming environment during the exchange of words

selected from the menu of predetermined words between the first user and the at least

one second user;

responsive to transmission of ~~transmitting~~ the unique code to the at least one

second user via a ~~mode~~ communication path outside of the multi-user gaming

environment[[;]]:

receiving the unique code from the at least one second user at the multi-user

gaming environment;

establishing an authenticated relationship between the first user and the at least

one second user in response to receipt by the multi-user gaming environment of the

unique code from the at least one second user; and

the environment permitting the first and at least second users to thereafter

communicate via free form secure communication when the unique code has been

authenticated by the multi-user gaming environment, wherein the free form secure

communication is not restricted to the menu of a pre-prepared library of words and the

free form communication acts as private chat between users having authenticated

relationship only.

Claim 59. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

one or more processors; and

a computer readable storage medium, in operable connection with the one or more processors, having a program of instructions executable by the one or more processors, the program of instructions comprising:

code configured to limit communication between users in ~~the~~ a multi-user online game to a menu-driven system of pre-prepared chat messages until an authenticated relationship is established between the users, the menu-driven system of pre-prepared chat messages comprising a set of pre-prepared chat messages associated with one or more game actions of the multi-user online game;[[.]]

code configured to receive a request of an unique code by a first user from the multi-user online game;

code configured to generate the unique code by the multi-user online game;

code configured to provide the unique code generated by the multi-user online game to the first user in the multi-user online game;

code configured to receive the unique code from a second user at the multi-user online game;

code configured to enable establishment of the authenticated relationship between users; and

code configured to enable free form communication between the first user and the second user in response to establishing the authenticated relationship between the first user and the second user, wherein the authenticated relationship is established via exchange of the unique code between the users;

wherein the menu-driven system of pre-prepared chat messages prevents

transmission of the secret code between the first user and the second user via the multi-

user online game.

Claim 60 cancelled.

Claim 61. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the

code configured to enable establishment of the authenticated relationship between

users further comprises:

      code providing a first user the secret code in response to a request of the first

user for the secret code; and

      code for receiving and authenticating the secret code from the second user.

Reason for Allowance

4.   Claims 1-7, 24-28, 44-47, 59 and 61-64 are allowed.

5.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

      The prior art of record taking singly or in combination fails to teach or suggest a

method comprising: limiting communication between users in a multi-user

communication environment to a menu-driven system until an authenticated relationship

is established between the users, wherein the menu-driven system is limited to

exchange of chat messages selected from a pre-prepared library of chat messages;

receiving a request for a unique code by a first user the multi-user communication

environment; generating the unique code by the multi-user communication environment;

providing the unique code generated by the multi-user communication environment to

the first user in the multi-user communication environment; responsive to transmission

of the unique code from the first user to a second user via a communication path

outside of multi-user communication environment: receiving the unique code from the

second user at the multi-user communication environment; establishing the

authenticated relationship between the first user and the second user in response to

receipt by the multi-user communication environment of the unique code from the

second user; and enabling free form communication between the first user and the

second user in response to establishing the authenticated relationship between the first

user and the second user, wherein the free form communication is not restricted to the

pre-prepared library of chat messages, and the free form communication acts as private

chat between users having an authenticated relationship only.

Therefore, the closest prior art of record (i.e: Danieli et al. (Patent no.: US

7,240,093 B1), Yamada et al. (PGPUB: US 2002/0049805 A1), Maehiro (PGPUB" US

2002/0062348 A1) and Harvey et al. (PGPUB: US 2002/0059379 A1)) taking singly or in

combination does not teach or suggest these features. Based on this reasoning, claim 1

is allowable over the prior art of record.

The dependent claims bring definite, further limiting, and fully enable by the

specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIN LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-1447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Srivastava Vivek can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lin Liu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2445

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/
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